

Sustaining A Successful Monitoring Program

Ginger North

Delaware Nature Society, P.O. Box #700, Hockessin, DE 19707

Biographical Sketch of Author

Ginger first joined the Delaware Nature Society as a Naturalist for the Education Department at Ashland in 1992 and taught a variety of programs for them. She has worked with the Delaware Stream Watch program in the Natural Resource Conservation department since 1995, first as the Technical Monitoring Assistant, then as Stream Watch Assistant Coordinator, and most recently as the Stream Watch Coordinator.

She received a Master of Science degree in Genetics from the University of Delaware, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology/Marine Biology from the University of Long Island. She taught biology laboratories for four years at the University of Delaware. She also has an extensive background in Quality Control, both in a clinical microbiology laboratory and in a hospital endocrinology laboratory.

Abstract

What does it take to maintain a successful monitoring program? Join us for one perspective from a volunteer monitoring program starting its 19th year. Delaware Stream Watch is a grassroots volunteer waterway protection program focusing on citizen monitoring, education, and advocacy. Founded in 1985 as a partnership between the Delaware Nature Society and the Division of Water Resources of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), it is one of the oldest statewide volunteer water quality monitoring programs in the nation, and one of the few joint efforts between a state agency and a non-profit environmental organization. Delaware Stream Watch is recognized as a national example of the acceptance and use of volunteer data by state and federal agencies in the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) modeling process. This presentation will focus on the successes and challenges in sustaining the Delaware Stream Watch program, specifically volunteer retention, quality assurance/control for data collection, use of volunteer data, and maintaining strong partnerships with state agencies.